

IFW

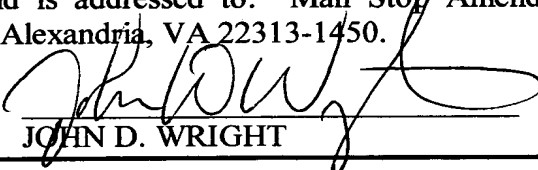


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Christopher Wallace Willoughby, et al.
Serial No: 10/696,698
Filed: October 29, 2003
For: Medication Dispensing Method And Apparatus
Group Art Unit: 3653
Examiner: Thomas A. Morrison
Docket No: 7261.3002.002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Date of Deposit with the U.S. Postal Service January 14, 2005, I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail under 37 CFR 1.8 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


JOHN D. WRIGHT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

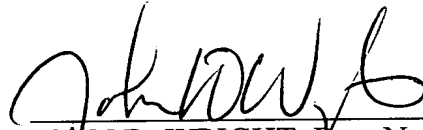
Dear Sir:

In the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement on pending claims 1-55. Subject to traverse, Applicant elects species 1 as set forth by the Examiner and all claims directed thereto. More particularly, Applicant elects claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement because search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden to the Examiner or the patent office. See MPEP §803. Applicant believes all pending claims can be efficiently searched and examined at the same time. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP §803, even though the claims are directed to independent or distinct inventions, they should be examined together since this can be done without serious burden.

Though no fees are believed to be due with this response, the Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund and fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 50-0852.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Wright", is written over a horizontal line.

JOHN D. WRIGHT, Reg. No. 49,095
Rising, Ethington, Barnes, Kisselle,
& Learman, P.C.
5291 Colony Drive North
Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 799-5300